Outdoor safety checklist

Use this checklist to find and remove hazards which may harm children. **Check the box as you look for and remove hazards in your home. If changes are needed make a note in the space provided.**

❒ No broken glass, sticks, stones, nails, or loose trash are present in the areas where children play

❒ Fill any holes and remove tree roots that could cause children to fall

❒ Check porches, railings, and steps for splinters and loose nails

❒ Get rid of anthills, wasp or hornet nests, and drain standing water that may breed mosquitoes

❒ Repair or remove wires or loose nails that stick out of fences

❒ Put away lawn mowers and sharp garden tools so children can't get them

❒ Store fertilizers, weed killer, bug spray, antifreeze and other toxic substances in a locked cabinet

❒ Enclose or cover air-conditioning units, water wells, electrical, and mechanical equipment so children cannot get to them

❒ Place artwork, signs, colored tape, or decals on glass doors at children's eye level

❒ Remove doors from old refrigerators and freezers

❒ Remove poisonous plants from your yard

❒ Clean up all animal droppings in your yard

❒ Cover sand boxes when not in use to keep out cats and dogs

❒ Swing-sets should be firmly anchored to the ground, with plenty of space around them

❒ Make sure swing-sets and other playground equipment are sturdy and won't easily tip over

❒ Check play equipment weekly for loose bolts and screws

❒ Cover any bolts or screws that stick out with plastic caps

❒ Check riding toys for sharp edges and missing parts

❒ Keep a thick layer of sand, wood chips or other surface material beneath slides and swings (see state and local regulations)

❒ Rake surface materials daily to keep them soft

❒ Swimming pools should have a fence around them with a locked gate (see state and local regulations)

❒ If your car is parked near the children's play area, make sure the gears are shifted to park and set the emergency brake

❒ Close car windows, lock car doors, and keep car keys in the house, out of children's reach

❒ Check yards in your neighborhood for ponds, burn barrels, unfenced pools, and other hazards

❒ You may need a fence to keep children away from busy streets or other yards with hazards

Supported by funds from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning, jointly overseen by the Departments of Human Services and Education.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.

Claudia C. Mincemoyer, Ph.D.,
Better Kid Care Program Director
2182 Sandy Drive – Suite 204
State College, PA 16803

© 2016 The Pennsylvania State University

HO_SafetyChecklists.indd